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**Associate Cooperative Agreement No. GHH-A-00-09-00007-00**



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**Livelihood & Food Security  
Technical Assistance**

**Annual Report #1  
FY2010  
October 1, 2009 – September 30, 2010**

**Submitted By:**



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Washington, DC 20009

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## BACKGROUND

The **L**ivelihood and **F**ood Security **T**echnical Assistance (LIFT) project is designed to work in close collaboration with US Government (USG) agencies, implementing partners, and other key players to integrate sustainable, market-driven livelihoods strengthening into food and nutritional security interventions. LIFT aims to heighten the impact of work done through USAID, PEPFAR, Feed the Future, USDA, CDC, and the Peace Corps, as well as local governments, civil society, and the private sector. LIFT's ultimate goal is to support the food security of vulnerable households by improving their livelihoods and economic circumstances.

The USAID Global Health Bureau's Office of HIV/AIDS (OHA) established the LIFT project as an Associate Award under the FIELD-Support Leader with Associates (LWA) Cooperative Agreement, managed by AED. LIFT is a five-year project (2009-2014) that draws together leading organizations with expertise in the areas of economic strengthening and food security. Under LIFT, AED partners with Care International (CARE) and Save the Children US (SAVE) as well as a robust group of resource organizations, to provide high-impact technical assistance to USG country teams and their implementing partners, and to offer leadership and strategic learning to the field of livelihood strengthening and food security as a whole. LIFT works in partnership with FANTA-2 (Food And Nutrition Technical Assistance project), and is in the process of establishing relationships with other key USG projects and initiatives around food security.

LIFT will improve vulnerable households' ability to access food through market-led sustainable livelihoods strengthening interventions, thereby leveraging the investments that the US Government, local governments, multilateral agencies, bilateral donors, civil society organizations and the private sector have made toward increasing food security.

## Executive Summary

LIFT initiated operations in November 2009, and immediately became involved in a technical assistance process that grounds conceptual guidance in field work and incorporates lessons learned in the field into conceptual guidance that can be utilized at a global level. This report presents LIFT's progress across each quarter of its first year, which saw the launch of key conceptual pieces like the Livelihoods and Food Security Framework and the Food Security indicators for the MERG Program Framework; key meetings such as the LIFT Partners Meeting and M&E meeting; and field-based technical assistance extended to USAID/Namibia and USAID/Ethiopia, with discussions for further field-based learning currently under way with several other missions.

## First Quarter: October-December 2009

### Activities

#### 1. Global

##### 1.1. DEVELOPING FRAMEWORK FOR LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY

LIFT started developing a framework for livelihoods and food security. LIFT subcontractor CARE took a lead on initiating this activity.

##### 1.2. COMPILING GLOBAL RESOURCE LIBRARY

LIFT started compiling a list of resources relevant to food security and livelihood development. These consist of publications, reports case studies and evaluation results. LIFT subcontractor Save the Children took a lead on initiating this activity.

##### 1.3. E-PLATFORM AND WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

LIFT started the process of selecting a sub-contractor to develop a knowledge platform around food security and livelihoods. LIFT lead partner AED took a lead on this activity.

#### 2. Country-Specific

##### 2.1 NIGERIA

LIFT explored initial conversations between LIFT AOTR and USAID Nigeria to consider initial LIFT activities in Nigeria.

##### 2.2 MALAWI

LIFT conducted initial conversations with OHA, and specifically Sarah Sandison who is about to be based in Malawi for several months, on strategies for developing LIFT activities in Malawi.

##### 2.3 NAMIBIA

LIFT rapidly responded to requests from USAID Namibia and FANTA II to conduct an assessment of livelihood and food security activities in Namibia in preparation for follow up field activities. After several debriefing meetings with USAID Namibia, USAID OHA, PACT Namibia and FANTA II in Namibia and Washington DC, LIFT finalized a Scope of Work for the desk assessment activity and identified an initial assessment team.

A comprehensive desk assessment report was compiled highlighting key projects and activities underway in Namibia, as well as key sectors offering future potential for market linkages. LIFT contracted consultant Ben Fowler to manage the assessment, consultants James Thomas and Landy Wright to support the research, with support from LIFT Project Director Margie Brand who provided technical input and research support.

#### 3. Operational Activities

##### 3.1 COMMUNICATION MATERIAL

LIFT developed initial communication material on the objective and scope of the project as well as on how to access the mechanism. This material was distributed to USAID Kenya, USAID Rwanda, and USG representatives that are members of the USG Food and Nutrition Technical Working Group.

##### 3.2 MISSION OUTREACH

LIFT staff member, Margie Brand, participated in an USG Food and Nutrition Working Group Teleconference, sharing information on the LIFT project activities and procurement mechanism. Interest was expressed by several USAID Missions, including USAID Haiti and USAID Namibia.

##### 3.3 SUBCONTRACTORS & CONSULTANTS

LIFT started the initial process of contracting sub-contractors, Save the Children, CARE, and Grand Junction Design (website design company). Additionally LIFT contracted key consultant, Ben Fowler, as well as consultants to conduct the desk assessment for Namibia, James Thomas and Landy Wright.

### **3.4 STAFF**

Margie Brand, Project Director, and Jennine Carmichael, Project Officer, started managing the LIFT project activities. LIFT developed initial job descriptions and posted job advertisements for Program Associate positions in order to secure additional staff to support the LIFT project activities.

### **3.5 USAID MEETINGS AND COMMUNICATION**

LIFT regularly met with USAID AOTR and other OHA staff to discuss overall project objectives and plan for initial activities.

## Second Quarter: January-March 2010

### Activities

#### 1. Global

##### 1.1 CAPACITY-BUILDING OF STAKEHOLDERS

From January to February 2010, LIFT Project Director Margie Brand served on the design and facilitation team for “Household Economic Strengthening for Orphans and Vulnerable Children,” a capacity-building workshop for USAID Missions, organized by AIDSTAR-Two, and held in Nairobi, Kenya from February 1-3, 2010. The workshop objective was to orient attendees on the basics of household economic strengthening for orphans and vulnerable children. Margie Brand and Leah Berkowitz Nchabeleng, from LIFT partner Care International, conducted capacity building sessions on “Household Economic Strengthening” and presented the LIFT technical assistance opportunities to participants.

Six USG country offices were represented at the meeting, with representatives from USAID and CDC from: Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, and Tanzania. LIFT explored areas for technical assistance in one-on-one meetings with each country group.

##### 1.2 STAKEHOLDER COORDINATION AND OUTREACH

A) LIFT engaged with several stakeholders to coordinate activities and discuss potential partnerships in the quarter, including:

- IFPRI (in general and through their RENEWAL project)
- PATH International
- Cardno Emerging Markets (through their AIDSTAR-II project)

B) On March 18-19, Margie Brand participated in a World Food Program (WFP) HIV & Nutrition Roundtable, on “Addressing Patient and Family Needs” with other participants from around the globe.

##### 1.3 M&E TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

USAID/OHA connected LIFT with the MEASURE Evaluation project to discuss opportunities for collaboration. MEASURE supports a broad range of M&E activities related to USAID health programming. LIFT and MEASURE had multiple meetings this quarter to discuss the M&E needs of cross-sectoral programs and how MEASURE can work with LIFT in addressing these needs.

##### 1.4 KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND LEARNING

Key learning activities during the quarter at the global level:

- a) LIFT Resource Library: Save the Children volunteered to spearhead the development of the LIFT technical resource library. With input from the other LIFT partners, SAVE developed and proposed a categorization system for the resource library and will begin populating the system to test how well it works. The resource library will be a key feature of the Learning Platform that LIFT will launch later this year.
- b) Learning Platform and LIFT web presence: Working with Grand Junction Design, LIFT began creating a Learning Platform for livelihoods and food security, based on the proven design of the Children, Youth and Economic Strengthening (CYES) Network Learning Platform. The Learning Platform will gather and share information about activities, events and funding opportunities in livelihoods and food security, and will host the resource library and provide a space for expert commentary. It will also provide LIFT with a web presence enabling USG agencies and USAID Missions to access information about technical assistance available.
- c) Events: Jennine Carmichael, Clint Curtis, and Lam Huynh from the LIFT Team attended the Partnership to End Hunger and Poverty in Africa Forum from February 25-26.

## 2. Country-specific

### 2.1 NAMIBIA

Shortly after project launch, FANTA-2 contacted LIFT about a request from USAID/Namibia to support identifying opportunities linking graduates from food-by-prescription services to income generating opportunities. After meeting with USAID/Namibia and FANTA-2, LIFT provided TA by undertaking an assessment of livelihood and food security activities in Namibia that would identify both short-term linkages to meet USAID/Namibia implementing partner's needs and short-term and long-term investments to meet USAID strategic needs. This assessment was a two-step process, beginning with a comprehensive desk review of the literature on economic opportunities in Namibia. The desk review report was finalized and shared with USAID/Namibia in January.

The second phase of the assessment comprised of a field assessment. LIFT Consultant, Ben Fowler, oversaw a multidisciplinary team comprised of CARE's LIFT representative Leah Berkowitz Nchabeleng (with HIV/AIDS and livelihoods expertise), AFE's LIFT representative Henri van der Land (with market development expertise), and SAVE's LIFT consultant Kathy McCaston (with livelihoods expertise), who were in the field from February 15-26. The team met to examine livelihood and food security constraints and opportunities and their application to HIV/AIDS-affected households.

During the quarter, LIFT began compiling the final assessment report, highlighting key projects and activities underway in Namibia and sectors offering future market linkage potential. As of the end of the quarter, the final report, along with a proposed investment strategy is under review and will be distributed to relevant stakeholders early in April. The report structure and the development process will serve as a template for future LIFT assessments.

### 2.2 NIGERIA

LIFT began discussions with USAID/Nigeria this quarter, presenting LIFT's services and resources, and investigating USAID/Nigeria's needs in terms of linking economic strengthening and food security interventions.

### 2.3 MALAWI

LIFT met with Sarah Sandison of USAID/Global Health prior to her departure for Malawi on TDY to discuss LIFT and explore appropriate way to identify where LIFT technical expertise could be useful to the Mission.

## 3. Operational

### 3.1 COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

- a) LIFT created outreach materials describing the project and how to access LIFT services. The materials have been distributed to interested USAID Missions, the USG Food and Nutrition Technical Working Group, FANTA-2, Africa 2010, IFPRI, and Cardno Emerging Markets.
- b) LIFT finalized a project logo and began creating templates for brochures, presentations and publications.
- c) LIFT initiated work on the project's branding and marking plan.

### 3.2 STAFFING

- This quarter, Clint Curtis and Lam Huynh joined the LIFT team as part-time Program Associates.
- LIFT is exploring opportunities to bring on a part-time intern to support LIFT activities such as the development of a web-based Learning Platform.

### 3.3 CONTRACTING

LIFT issued the following contracts in the quarter:

- Subaward to Action for Enterprise (AFE) to participate in the Namibia field assessment
- Subaward to CARE
- Subaward to Save the Children
- Purchase order to Grand Junction Design for website design
- Consultant agreement to Ben Fowler

### **3.4 DELIVERABLES**

LIFT prepared and submitted the following deliverables to USAID during the quarter:

- Quarterly Report #1 (FY2010, Quarter 1)
- FY09 HOP Partner Progress Review

## **Successes**

### **1. Global**

LIFT rapidly built on the momentum established by the launch of activities in Namibia, moving ahead quickly with outreach to USAID Missions, developing a project identity, and fostering highly collaborative relationships among the core partners (AED, CARE, and Save the Children) and with other organizations and initiatives working in related areas.

### **2. Country-specific**

#### **2.1 NAMIBIA**

This quarter, with the conclusion of field work in Namibia, LIFT successfully completed its first TA assignment. The assessment report for Namibia was under final review at the end of quarter and will be released early in April. Early feedback from the Mission is encouraging, particularly their positive response to the desk review report. The Namibia assessment was very helpful in rapidly strengthening LIFT's relationship with FANTA-2 by demonstrating the value that LIFT can add to food security programming.

In conducting the USAID/Namibia assessment, LIFT had planned the desk review only as a foundational step for the field assessment. However, the positive reaction of the USAID/Namibia Mission to the desk review report indicates that conducting a desk review and reporting on the results can be a valuable deliverable in its own right. Synthesizing information on livelihoods and food security initiatives taking place in country is helpful to Mission staff, particularly within a structure that helps clarify how to understand economic strengthening activities in country.

The Namibia field assessment team reported that it was valuable to have a team comprised of individuals with different areas of sectoral expertise (HIV/AIDS, livelihoods, food security, and market development). Each team member brought a different lens to the process, resulting in a more complete picture of what types of livelihoods development activities are appropriate for vulnerable households.

## **Challenges**

### **1. Global**

The speed at which LIFT was requested to undertake activities in Namibia presented a challenge to staff capacity. LIFT met this challenge by moving quickly to bring additional support staff on board and work closely with LIFT partners and consultants.

### **2. Country-specific**

#### **2.1 NAMIBIA**

The tight timeframe for the Namibia assessment resulted in challenges assembling the desk review and field assessment teams. LIFT was able to overcome this through intense outreach efforts, and is making an effort to preempt this challenge in the future by developing a database of staff and consultants who would be valuable members of an assessment team.

## **Plans for the Next Quarter**

### **1. Global**

- LIFT will hold a Partners Meeting in Pretoria, South Africa, from April 5-9. The meeting will address project strategy, opportunities, and learning. The meeting will provide important input into the project framework, workplan, and PMP. Expected participants include representatives from OHA, AED, CARE, Save the Children, and FANTA-2.

- LIFT will continue to develop the LIFT Global Resource Review by populating the categorization system, seeking input about documents to include from major stakeholders and other organizations and proposing a system to highlight strategic documents for users.
- From April 28-29, 2010, a meeting will be held in Washington DC with LIFT stakeholders to discuss monitoring and evaluation frameworks. USAID, CARE, FANTA-2, MEASURE, and Save the Children will participate in this meeting.

## **2. Country-specific**

### **2.1 NAMIBIA**

The livelihood and food security assessment report of Namibia will be finalized, including the desk review findings, with a situational analysis, livelihoods priorities and strategies, recommendations, and appendices of additional resources to utilize. This will include possible areas of investment for USAID/Namibia.

### **2.2 NIGERIA**

A country assessment in Nigeria is planned for June 2010.

## LIFT Meetings Log – FY10 Q2

Date	Topic	Attendees
1/13/2010	LIFT Status and Planning Meeting	Tim Quick and Amie Heap(USAID/OHA), Margie Brand and Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT)
1/14/2010	LIFT Technical Strategy Meeting	CARE, SAVE, Margie Brand and Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT)
1/20/2010	LIFT Monthly Meeting	Tim Quick and Amie Heap(USAID/OHA), Margie Brand and Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT)
1/21/2010	Namibia Assessment Meeting	USAID/Namibia, Pact/Namibia, Margie Brand and Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT)
1/22/2010	FIELD-Support Partners Meeting	FIELD-Support staff and partners, Margie Brand Jennine Carmichael and Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
1/30/2010	USAID Collaboration Meeting	Maury Mendenhall (USAID/GHFP), Jason Wolfe (USAID/EGAT), Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
1/30/2010	CARE and LIFT Meeting in Kenya	Leah Berkowitz (CARE), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
1/30/2010	CARDNO and LIFT Meeting	Maury Mendenhall (USAID/GHFP), Beatrice Nyamwenge (USIAD/Kampala), Jason Wolfe (USAID/EGAT), Michael Reeves and Victoria Francis (Cardno), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
2/3/2010	Namibia Assessment Agenda Meeting	Ochi Ibe (USAID/Namibia), Silke Felton (USAID/Windhoek), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
2/3/2010, 2/11/2010, 2/17/2010, 2/19/2010, 2/20/2010, 2/25/2010, 3/8/2010,	Namibia Assessment Meetings	Kathy McCaston (CARE Cons.), Henri van der Land (AFE Cons.), Frank Lusby (AFE), Leah Berkowitz (CARE), Ben Fowler (LIFT Cons.), Nelson Prada (Pact), Margie Brand and Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT)
2/16/2010	FANTA-2 and LIFT Meeting	Tony Castleman (AED/FANTA-2), LIFT Team
2/18/2010	FANTA-2 Indicators Debrief for GHFSI	Tim Quick and Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), FANTA-2, Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
2/18/2010	USAID/OHA Monthly Plans Meeting	Tim Quick and Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
2/25/10 -2/26/10	Partnership to End Hunger and Poverty in Africa Forum	Jennine Carmichael, Clint Curtis, and Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
2/26/2010	USAID/OHA Meeting	Tim Quick and Amie Heap (USAID/OHA); Margie Brand, Jennine Carmichael and Clint Curtis (AED/LIFT)
Date	Topic	Attendees
3/2/2010	SAVE and LIFT Meeting	Lisa Parrott (SAVE), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
3/4/2010	Namibia USAID Meeting	Ochi Ibe (USAID/Namibia), Tim Quick and Amie Heap (USAID/OHA); Margie Brand, Jennine Carmichael, Clint Curtin and Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
3/17/2010	FANTA-2 and LIFT Collaboration Meeting	Gilles Bergeron and Tony Castleman (AED/FANTA-2), Margie Brand, Jennine Carmichael, Clint Curtin and Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
3/18/10-3/19/10	WFP Roundtable Meeting	Tim Quick and Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
3/22/2010	Livelihood & Food Security Resource Library Meeting	Thierry van Bastelaer , Lisa Parrott and Diana Alhindawi (SAVE); Margie Brand, Jennine Carmichael, Clint Curtin and Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
3/24/2010	IFPRI and LIFT Possible Collaboration Meeting	Rahul Rawat (IFPRI); Margie Brand, Jennine Carmichael, Clint Curtin and Lam Huynh

3/24/2010	IFPRI and LIFT Possible Collaboration Meeting	Rahul Rawat (IFPRI); Margie Brand, Jennine Carmichael, Clint Curtin and Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
3/26/2010	Partners Meeting Strategy Call	Lisa Parrott (SAVE), Leah Berkowitz (CARE), Ben Fowler (LIFT Cons.), Margie Brand, Jennine Carmichael, Clint Curtin and Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
3/29/2010	USAID Partners Strategy Meeting	Tim Quick and Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), Margie Brand, Jennine Carmichael, Clint Curtin and Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)

## Third Quarter: April-June 2010

### Activities

#### 1. Global

##### 1.1 LIFT PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

LIFT convened a strategic meeting with partners and stakeholders in Pretoria, South Africa from April 5-9, 2010 to discuss the existing state of the practice in livelihoods and food security, and engage with key players around shaping LIFT's future direction. Organizations participating in the meeting included USAID/OHA, USAID/South Africa, MEASURE Evaluation, AED (LIFT, FANTA-2, representatives from the AED/South Africa office), CARE, and Save the Children.

The objectives of the meeting were to: discuss the development of a livelihoods' framework; discuss how LIFT Partners will work together for maximum efficiency and effectiveness; engage in activity and approach strategizing and planning; understand opportunities for LIFT vis-à-vis the Feed the Future Initiative; and strategize around country technical assistance and follow-up.

##### 1.2 LIVELIHOOD & FOOD SECURITY MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E) MEETING

LIFT convened a Livelihoods & Food Security M&E meeting from April 28-29, 2010 in Washington, D.C., to discuss the development of cross-cutting M&E tools and resources relevant to economic strengthening, livelihoods, and food security. Participants in the meeting included representatives from USAID/OHA, the PEPFAR Food and Nutrition Technical Working Group, MEASURE Evaluation, AED (FANTA-2, Africa's Health in 2010, and LIFT), CARE and Save the Children. The monitoring and evaluation meeting resulted in a rich dialogue around measurement options for the various economic strengthening components and livelihoods work to be considered by LIFT.

##### 1.3 LIVELIHOODS & FOOD SECURITY CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Recognizing the need to for a unified conceptual framework to guide donors and practitioners in understanding and responding to livelihoods and food security realities at household level, LIFT worked to develop a livelihood and food security conceptual framework. This framework is intended for use by national governments and global livelihoods and food security stakeholders to support effective integrated and harmonized approaches. LIFT contracted Dr. Gary Woller of Woller & Associates to spearhead framework development. A draft framework narrative was developed and circulated for comment to a range of LIFT stakeholders, including Jason Wolfe from USAID/MD, Leah Berkowitz and other representatives from CARE, Lisa Parrott from Save the Children, and recognized consultants Jim Dempsey, Jill Thompson, Ben Fowler and Bobbie van Heftern. Currently, the framework is undergoing revision based on stakeholder comments before circulation to additional stakeholders and finalization.

##### 1.4 LIVELIHOODS & FOOD SECURITY GLOBAL RESOURCE DIRECTORY

Under Save the Children's leadership, LIFT has continued to develop and expand its Global Resource Directory by incorporating additional key documents identified by research staff and partners, as well as colleagues in the field. Over 100 key documents are currently categorized within the directory, and Save the Children is actively seeking recommended documents/studies/case studies from peer organizations.

##### 1.5 GLOBAL NUTRITION & HIV INDICATOR SET: FOOD SECURITY COMPONENT

LIFT provided feedback, through USAID/OHA, into the review and refinement of the food security component of the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) guidance intended to support implementation of the global nutrition and HIV indicator set developed in a joint WHO/PEPFAR, multi-stakeholder consultation held in July 2009. In the next quarter, LIFT will participate in the Consultation meeting that develops the M&E guidance further.

##### 1.6 STRENGTHENING NACS WRAPAROUND SERVICES CONCEPT

LIFT designed and submitted a concept paper to USAID/OHA on *Strengthening NACS Wraparound Services Targeting Livelihoods and Food Security*. The concept describes a proposed activity, to take place across three East African countries, with the aim of demonstrating how to create effective linkages between clinic-based NACS programs and livelihood support services. LIFT proposes facilitating effective practices in three country contexts, documenting them, and producing guidelines to be used by other NACS programs worldwide.

### **1.7 LIVELIHOODS & FOOD SECURITY HELP-DESK CONCEPT**

LIFT contracted Dr. Gary Woller to develop a concept paper for a Livelihoods & Food Security M&E Help Desk, which could be operated through LIFT. LIFT discussed that concept paper and the FANTA-2 experience in operating a similar mechanism with Kristen Cashin, Technical Support Services Manager for FANTA-2.

### **1.8 CARE & SUPPORT ASSESSMENT ON LINKAGES TO LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY FUNDING**

LIFT was awarded \$50,000 from the PEPFAR Care and Support Technical Working Group. The funding will add a care and support lens to a LIFT assessment to provide insights into the relationship between livelihood and food security activities and access to care and support services.

### **1.9 ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING & FOOD SECURITY WEB PORTAL**

In order to create a respected platform for livelihood and food security resources, communities of practice and discussions, LIFT contracted Grand Junction Design to create an open source web platform to be managed by LIFT. The platform is expected to be launched during the next quarter and to house the Livelihoods & Food Security Global Resource Directory and a sub-site dedicated to LIFT.

## **Country-Specific**

### **2.1 NAMIBIA LIVELIHOODS & FOOD SECURITY DESK & FIELD ASSESSMENT**

After completing the desk and field livelihoods and food security assessment in northern and southern Namibia in the previous quarter, the first draft of the Namibia Assessment Report was completed this quarter and shared with USAID/Namibia, as well as distributed to key stakeholders, including FANTA-2 and Pact/Namibia, for review and comment. LIFT compiled stakeholder edits and comments and initiated a revision to the draft Field Assessment Report, which is expected to be completed in late July.

### **2.2 NAMIBIA LIVELIHOODS & FOOD SECURITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ASSOCIATE AWARD CONCEPT**

LIFT held a follow-up meeting with USAID/Namibia in April to review the Namibia Livelihoods & Food Security Assessment Report draft and investment recommendations. USAID/Namibia expressed interest in engaging LIFT for technical assistance in assisting implementing partners in operationalizing the field assessment recommendations. LIFT drafted a Scope of Work for these activities to take place under a FIELD-Support Associate Award for the Mission's review and input.

### **2.2 NIGERIA LIVELIHOODS & FOOD SECURITY ASSESSMENT**

LIFT continued to engage with USAID/Nigeria around potential technical assistance activities. LIFT and USAID/Nigeria met in April to discuss how LIFT could support the goals and objectives of the Mission in regards to improving livelihood and food security of PLHIV and their caregivers. The Mission expressed particular interest in technical assistance activities that would diversify and strengthen the economic alternatives for commercial sex workers, appropriate activities for OVC support, and opportunities for vulnerable youth.

LIFT developed a Concept Paper and Scope of Work for technical assistance activities in Nigeria, and shared them with partners and stakeholders. LIFT has already received \$400,000 for this assistance from USAID/Nigeria, which was included in the original LIFT award and needs to finalize activities with the Mission.

Preparation for the technical assistance activity began in this quarter through compiling strategic and relevant publications and other resources that will feed into the desk review segment of the assessment, which provides the historical and sectoral grounding for livelihoods and food security assessment. LIFT began to reach out to qualified individuals to solicit their interest and availability to participate in field-based TA activities in Nigeria.

### **2.3 MALAWI LIVELIHOODS REVIEW WITHIN THE HIV/AIDS PORTFOLIO AND IMPLEMENTING PARTNER CAPACITY STRENGTHENING**

LIFT met twice with the USAID/Malawi team to discuss the Mission's livelihoods and food security portfolio and possible technical assistance needs. USAID/Malawi is interested in having LIFT conduct a review of existing livelihood activities in the HIV/AIDS portfolio and to provide technical assistance around two mechanisms the Mission is developing to integrate livelihoods and food security with HIV/AIDS programming.

LIFT developed a SOW for TA activities, and is awaiting Mission feedback on the objectives and schedule for the TA assignment. The LIFT team has begun compiling publications and other resources to feed into the development of a Desk Review specific to the past and current livelihood and food security situation in Malawi.

## **2.4 ETHIOPIA LIVELIHOODS & FOOD SECURITY ASSESSMENT AND PEPFAR LIVELIHOODS' PORTFOLIO REVIEW**

LIFT responded to a SOW from USAID/Ethiopia to review and assess economic strengthening activities within the Mission's HIV/AIDS portfolio. The TA will involve a desk review that will provide background for the livelihood, food security and HIV/AIDS context in Ethiopia and identify key areas of investigation and key contacts for a field assessment of the livelihood strengthening activities in the USAID/Ethiopia HIV/AIDS portfolio.

LIFT compiled resources for the desk review and began assembling two teams of consultants: one to conduct the desk review, which is a concrete deliverable under the LIFT approach, and another to conduct the field assessment, with an intentional, substantial overlap in the composition of the two teams. The desk review will begin in July, and the draft report based on desk research will be submitted in early August. The field-based portfolio assessment will take place from August through to September, with delivery of the final report in October, 2010.

## **Operational**

### **3.1 COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH**

- The LIFT project was presented to the SEEP HIV/AIDS and Microenterprise Development (HAMED) working group in Washington, D.C., during their bi-annual working group sessions by Ntongi McFadyen from Save the Children.
- The LIFT project was presented to the USG PL10-995 community at their 2-day conference in Washington, D.C., by LIFT Project Director, Margie Brand.
- LIFT spent half a day in June 2010 with Ashley Blocker and Clinton Sears, USAID/OHA interns, discussing the project and the draft livelihoods framework.
- LIFT created a project brochure and poster that describe the project, technical services offered, and how to access LIFT services.

### **3.2 STAFFING**

- This quarter, Shilpa Surendran joined the LIFT team as a summer intern through Save the Children. Shilpa is supporting the development of the LIFT Resource Library, as well as providing support to country desk assessments.
- The LIFT team began working on interviewing additional full-time staff members. AED identified a candidate for the role of Senior Specialist who will start working full time with LIFT in September. AED also began interviews for positions to be filled in the next quarter. Save the Children initiated a candidate search for one full-time employee dedicated to LIFT.

### **3.3 CONTRACTING**

LIFT issued the following contracts in the quarter:

- Consultant Agreement to Gary Woller
- Consultant Agreement to James Dempsey
- Consultant Agreement to Joan Hall
- Consultant Agreement to Jill Thomson

### **3.4 DELIVERABLES**

LIFT prepared and submitted the following deliverables to USAID during the quarter:

- Quarterly Report #2 (FY2010, Quarter 2)
- Quarterly Accruals Report

## **Successes**

- The submission of the draft assessment report to USAID/Namibia marked the successful conclusion of LIFT's first TA activity and first official collaboration with FANTA-2.
- The Partner Meeting and M&E Meeting established LIFT on a sound technical footing and laid the groundwork for future collaborations among stakeholders.
- LIFT has established robust communication among the core partners, AED, CARE and Save the Children; has developed effective partnerships with related programs, like FANTA-2 and MEASURE Evaluation, and is establishing relationships with external initiatives, such as IFPRI.

- LIFT outreach, with continued leadership from USAID/OHA, is starting to show success, with multiple USAID Missions expressing interest in accessing LIFT services.

## Challenges

Save the Children has struggled to understand how to dedicate sufficient and appropriate personnel and time to growing the LIFT portfolio. One way to address this challenge has been to increase the amount of time the principal technical advisor can spend on the project, while reducing the time of others who do not have the same skill sets for the work at this time. In addition, making the decision to hire a full-time LIFT Specialist will assist in giving the project more focus and dedicated staff time, as well as technical input and better representation in Washington DC.

Working cross-sectorally poses a special set of challenges and opportunities. LIFT is constantly assessing the effectiveness of project communication around economic strengthening with practitioners and donors who come from other technical backgrounds. This has, on occasion, required multiple approaches and clarifications to information LIFT wishes to relay, but has been useful in helping project staff identify which approaches and messages are most effective with particular audiences.

## Plans for the Next Quarter

### 1. Global

- Attend and present at PEPFAR's Regional Meeting in Uganda in September 2010.
- Present at the Save the Children annual global HIV and AIDS program learning group (approximately 50 participants) regarding LIFT and emerging practices in HIV and economic strengthening/food security.
- Finalize and launch the Economic Strengthening for Food Security website, incorporating a dedicated section for LIFT and the Resource Library, among other features.
- Finalize the LIFT Workplan for Year 2.
- Finalize the Livelihood and Food Security Conceptual Framework.
- Participate in the Consultation for Development of a Joint Global Framework for Action and Monitoring and Evaluation Guidance for Nutrition and HIV Activities in July.

### 2. Country-specific

- Conduct Ethiopia technical assistance assessment activity.
- Continue plans for TA activities in:
  - Namibia
  - Nigeria
  - Malawi
- Begin discussing potential TA activities with USAID/Zambia and USAID/Mozambique.

## LIFT Meeting Log – FY10 Q3

Date	Topic	Attendees
4/1/2010	FANTA-2 and LIFT Collaboration Meeting	Peggy Parlato (AED/GHPN), Bonnie Barhyte (AED/LIDG), Mark Ketcham (AED/CECD), Anne Swindale (FANTA-2), Tony Castleman (FANTA-2), Gilles Bergeron (FANTA-2), Linda Sanei (AED/GHPN), Margie Brand and Clint Curtis (AED/LIFT)
4/5/2010	USAID/Nigeria and LIFT collaboration Meeting	Philomena Irene (USAID/Nigeria); Tim Quick and Amie Heap (USAID/OHA) (USAID/OHA); Margie Brand, Jennine Carmichael, Clint Curtin and Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
4/6/10-4/9/10	LIFT Partners Meeting	Tim Quick and Amie Heap (USAID/OHA); Nerisa Pilime (USAID/South Africa); Leah Berkowitz and Dan Mullins (CARE); Lisa Parrott (SAVE); Alison Tumilowicz (AED/FANTA-2); Ben Fowler (LIFT Cons.); Jean Tshiula and Viwe Mtshontshi (AED/South Africa); Gary Woller (Woller & Associates); Silvia Alayon (MEASURE); Margie Brand,

Date	Topic	Attendees
		Jennine Carmichael, Clint Curtin and Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
4/8/2010	USAID/Malawi and LIFT Collaboration Meeting	Sandra Sandison (USAID/Malawi), Violet Orchardson (USAID/Malawi), Tim Quick and Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
4/10/10-4/12/10	RENEWAL Strategy Meeting	Leah Berkowitz (CARE)
4/12/2010	IFPRI / RENEWAL and LIFT Meeting	Scott Drimie (IFPRI), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
4/20/2010	M&E Guidelines & Evaluation Framework	Kristen Wares and Anna Williams (USAID/OHA), Silvia Alayon (MEASURE), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
4/22/10-4/23/10	IRCW Economic Strengthening for Adolescent Girls Symposium	Leah Berkowitz (CARE)
4/27/2010	Namibia Assessment Discussion	Lisa Parrott (Save); Leah Berkowitz (CARE); Gary Woller (Woller & Associates); Margie Brand, Jennine Carmichael, Clint Curtin and Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
4/27/2010	Africa's Health in 2010 and LIFT Collaboration Meeting	Winston Allen and Kathleen Kurz (AED/Africa2010); Gary Woller (Woller & Associates); Leah Berkowitz (CARE); Margie Brand, Jennine Carmichael, Clint Curtin and Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
4/28/10-4/29/10	LIFT Livelihoods & Food Security M&E Meeting	Tim Quick and Amie Heap (USAID/OHA); Pamela Ching (CDC); Silvia Alayon (MEASURE); Tony Castleman, Pamela Fergusson and Vicky Michener (AED/FANTA-2); Thierry van Bastelaer (SAVE); Winston Allen (AED/Africa2010), Gary Woller (Woller & Associates); Margie Brand, Jennine Carmichael, Clint Curtin and Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
5/4/2010	Save the Children and LIFT Meeting	Lisa Parrott, Ntongi McFadyen, and Thierry van Bastelaer (SAVE); Gary Woller (Woller & Associates); Margie Brand, Jennine Carmichael, Clint Curtin and Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
5/6/2010	Joan Hall Technical Assistance Activity Consultancy	Joan Hall (Independent Consultant), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
5/6/10-5/7/10	PL109-95 Meeting with USAID/OGAC, USAID/DCOF, USAID/OHA, USAID/South Africa, Dept. of State, Dept. of Labor, IRC	Tim Quick (USAID/OHA), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
5/7/2010	Grand Junction Design and LIFT Meeting	Margaux O'Malley (GJD), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT)
5/10/2010	AED-wide Food Security Meeting	Peggy Parlato and Laura Dominguez (AED/GHPN); Bonnie Barhyte (AED/LIDG); Mark Ketcham (AED/CECD); Richard Bossi (AED/SC); Anne Swindale, Tony Castleman, Gilles Bergeron and Robert Mwadime (AED/FANTA-2); Omar Dary and Kathleen Kurz (AED/Africa2010; Margie Brand, Jennine Carmichael, Clint Curtin and Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
5/12/2010	Partnership to End Hunger and Poverty in Africa: Food Security in Malawi	Clint Curtis (AED/LIFT)
5/19/2010	USAID/Malawi and LIFT Collaboration Meeting	Tim Quick, Amie Heap and Sarah Sandison (USAID/OHA), Margie Brand and Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT)
5/19/2010	USAID/Malawi and LIFT Collaboration Meeting	Tim Quick, Amie Heap and Sarah Sandison (USAID/OHA); Margie Brand, Jennine Carmichael and Clint Curtis (AED/LIFT).
5/20/2010	USAID/Namibia Technical Assistance Activity (TAA) Meeting	Ochi Ibe and Melissa Jones (USAID/Namibia), Tim Quick and Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
5/20/2010	Partnership to End Hunger and Poverty in Africa: Food Security Symposium with Rajiv Shah	Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
5/21/2010	Save the Children and LIFT Meeting	Lisa Parrott and Ntongi McFadyen (SAVE); Jennine Carmichael, Margie Brand and Clint Curtis (AED/LIFT)
5/24/2010	FANTA-2 and LIFT Collaboration Meeting	Tony Castleman and Wendy Hammond (AED/FANTA-2); Margie Brand, Jennine Carmichael, Clint Curtin and Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
5/26/2010	WDI Presentation: Comparing Donor-Driven Value Chain Programs and Enterprise-Led Initiatives	Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Attendees</b>
5/26/2010	FANTA-2 and LIFT Collaboration Meeting	Phil Moses (AED/FANTA-2), Bobbie van Haeften (Cons.), Margie Brand, Jennine Carmichael, Clint Curtin and Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
6/1/2010	M&E Guidelines & Evaluation Framework	Gary Woller (Woller & Associates), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
6/2/2010	Technical Assistance Help Desk Paper Meeting	Kristen Cashin (AED/FANTA-2), Jennine Carmichael and Clint Curtis (AED/LIFT)
6/7/2010	OHA/LIFT Interns Meeting	Ashley Blocker (USAID/OHA), Clinton Sears (USAID/OHA), Margie Brand, Jennine Carmichael, Clint Curtin and Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
6/21/10 - 6/25/10	USAID Economic Growth Officers' Conference	Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)

## Fourth Quarter: July-September 2010

### Activities

#### 1. Global

##### **1.1. CONSULTATION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINT GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION AND MONITORING AND EVALUATION GUIDANCE FOR NUTRITION AND HIV ACTIVITIES**

From July 29-30, 2010, LIFT M&E Expert consultant, Gary Woller, and LIFT Program Director, Margie Brand, attended the *Consultation for Development of a Joint Global Framework for Action and Monitoring and Evaluation Guidance for Nutrition and HIV Activities* and *Consultation on Harmonized Global Indicators for Monitoring and Evaluating Nutrition and HIV Activities* in Washington, D.C. with AOTR Timothy Quick and Amie Heap. Other participants included representatives from USAID/OHA, WHO, NIH, the PEPFAR Food and Nutrition TWG, MEASURE Evaluation, and FANTA-2.

##### **1.2. M&E RESOURCE GROUP (MERG) PROPOSED INDICATOR DEVELOPMENT**

Building on discussion at the M&E Consultation Meeting in July, LIFT M&E Expert consultant, Gary Woller, with support from LIFT Senior Specialist, Kirsten Weeks, and others in the AED LIFT team, continued to work with USAID, FANTA-2, and JSI's MEASURE Evaluation project on defining and revising indicators for monitoring food security and HIV linkages, with the intention of submitting these indicators to the United Nations' HIV Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group (MERG) later in the year.

##### **1.3. PEPFAR REGIONAL MEETING ON NACS IN HIV SERVICES**

From September 14-17, 2010, LIFT Program Director, Margie Brand, and LIFT Senior Specialist, Kirsten Weeks, participated in the *PEPFAR Regional Meeting on Nutrition Assessment Counseling and Support in HIV: Strategies, Tools, and Progress in Integrating Nutrition into HIV Programming*, which took place in Jinja, Uganda. The primary purpose of this meeting was to share country experiences and lessons learned in the implementation of nutrition assessment, counseling and support (NACS) within clinical and community health services. Margie Brand co-facilitated a breakout session at the meeting, "Innovations of linking NACS with livelihood programming," with Fanice Komen of AMPATH, Kenya.

##### **1.4. FOOD FOR PEACE INTEGRATION WITH PEPFAR**

LIFT has started contributing to discussions around improving the integration of PEPFAR funding with Title II Food Aid Programs. Participation in these discussion has helped lay the groundwork for potential LIFT assistance to USG county programs in operationalizing this integration. Sarah Sandison and Judy Kenowati of USAID have been the primary contacts at USAID for this activity with discussions still in an initial phase.

##### **1.5. LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK**

Throughout the quarter, LIFT partners continued work on a livelihood and food security conceptual framework that can be used to understand and explain the interaction between economic strengthening and food security. LIFT M&E Expert consultant, Gary Woller, has been spearheading the Conceptual Framework development, with input from a range of LIFT stakeholders, including Save the Children and CARE. A draft framework narrative has been developed and circulated for comments to stakeholders including the participants at the Regional Meeting on NACS in HIV Services and AIDSTAR-II (Cardno Emerging Markets Group). Currently, the framework is undergoing revision based on stakeholder comments.

##### **1.6 ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING FOR FOOD SECURITY PLATFORM**

LIFT continued work on the Economic Strengthening for Food Security (ESFS) Platform, a web-based platform for LIFT and related projects to share knowledge and learning around integrating economic strengthening and food security interventions for improved household well-being. The AED team coordinated the development of a proposed layout, primary content areas and graphic design for the site and sought feedback and input from various stakeholders, including Save the Children and CARE.

##### **1.7 RESOURCE LIBRARY**

Under Save the Children's leadership, LIFT has continued to develop and expand its Resource Library by incorporating several new key documents identified by research staff and partners, as well as colleagues in the field.

Over 150 documents are currently categorized, and Save the Children is actively seeking recommended documents/studies/case studies from peer organizations.

## **1.8 ADDITIONAL GLOBAL OUTPUTS**

LIFT further refined and developed the concept paper for USAID/OHA, “Strengthening NACS Wraparound Services Targeting Livelihoods and Food Security” that was submitted last quarter for consideration for Plus-up funds. The concept describes an activity across three East African countries to demonstrate how to create effective linkages between clinic-based NACS programs and livelihood support services. In this quarter, LIFT refined the narrative, expanded the budget, and developed slides on the concept for OHA.

## **Country-specific**

### **2.1 ETHIOPIA**

Last quarter, the USAID/Ethiopia PEPFAR office requested that LIFT provide technical assistance in designing and implementing an independent external review and assessment of economic strengthening activities (ES) within the Ethiopia PEPFAR HIV/AIDS portfolio. LIFT undertook assessment activities in the current quarter, comprised of a desk review in July and August that provided background for the livelihood, food security, and HIV/AIDS context in Ethiopia as well as identifying key areas of investigation and key contacts; and a field assessment in August and September that built on the desk review in assessing livelihood strengthening activities in the USAID/Ethiopia HIV/AIDS portfolio.

The desk review was conducted by consultants Ben Fowler, Joan Hall, and Scott Arche (contracted through LIFT partner, AFE) with support from the LIFT team. Ms. Hall and Mr. Arche, along with James Dempsey, Raya Abagodu, Tassew Woldehanna, Chalachew Tiruneh (a logistics consultant contracted through AED), and Lisa Parrott from Save the Children, comprised the team for the field assessment.

The Ethiopia field assessment methodology consisted of interviewing USAID Mission representatives, implementing partners (international, national, and community-based organizations) with PEPFAR funding, and beneficiaries. Focus groups with beneficiaries were also conducted, and visits to beneficiaries’ activities, such as income-generating activities (IGAs) and urban gardens, also occurred. Prior to interviews, the Ethiopia team developed tools for conducting interviews and assessing field activities. Finally, the Ethiopia team reviewed project documents shared by implementing partners. LIFT will deliver the final assessment report and a debriefing and strategy development meeting with the USAID Mission and implementing partners next quarter.

### **2.2. SWAZILAND**

In August, Natalie Kruse-Levy of PEPFAR/Swaziland reached out to Tim Quick about working with LIFT in Swaziland. Subsequently, the LIFT team corresponded and held conference calls with Ms. Kruse-Levy to determine the timeframe and needs for a small assessment activity that will feed into the design of larger, ongoing implementation projects in economic strengthening and food security for HIV/AIDS-affected household and households with OVC.

By the end of the quarter, LIFT and PEPFAR/Swaziland had begun negotiating a scope of work for the TA assignment and identified the timeframe for the activity as late November – early December 2010. LIFT also began identifying a team of international and local consultants with relevant skill sets and availability.

### **2.3. NIGERIA**

The LIFT team reached out to Lungi Okoko and Philomena Irene in the USAID/Nigeria Mission to follow up on discussions from the previous quarter about LIFT technical assistance provision in Nigeria. The team scheduled a discussion with the Mission early in the first quarter of FY 2011.

### **2.4. NAMIBIA**

LIFT continued work on incorporating stakeholder feedback into and refining the presentation of the final Namibia *Livelihoods and Food Security Assessment Report*. Plans for next quarter include furthering discussion of potential follow-on activities with the USAID Namibia Mission.

### **2.5. MALAWI**

LIFT Program Director, Margie Brand, and LIFT Senior Specialist, Kirsten Weeks, met with Violet Orchardson from the USAID/Malawi Mission at the *PEPFAR Regional Meeting on Nutrition Assessment Counseling and Support in HIV/AIDS* in Uganda to follow up on previous conversations about potential LIFT TA provision to

USAID/Malawi. LIFT worked on drafting a SOW for this proposed TA, began initial document identification for the desk review, and connected with the Mission to set up a meeting for early in the next quarter.

## **2.6. KENYA**

LIFT reached out to the USAID/Kenya Mission after the *PEPFAR Regional Meeting on Nutrition Assessment Counseling and Support in HIV/AIDS* to follow up on potential LIFT TA provision opportunities in Kenya.

## **Operational**

### **3.1. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH**

- LIFT designed and produced a brochure and poster describing LIFT's global leadership and country-level technical assistance and support services, with input from stakeholders, including USAID/OHA. The poster and brochure have been used to promote LIFT at a variety of events, notably the Food for Peace Conference held in Washington, DC from July 14-15, where LIFT organized an exhibition stand, the African Growth and Opportunity Act Conference in Washington, DC from July 29-August 3, and the *PEPFAR Regional Meeting on Nutrition Assessment Counseling and Support in HIV/AIDS* in Uganda.
- The project continued to work on developing a dedicated web presence for LIFT, which will be housed on the ESFS website.
- A presentation on LIFT was made by Save the Children's LIFT representatives to the *Save the Children International HIV and AIDS Global Initiative Team* in Sopron, Hungary on July 12, to inform global technical advisors regarding the opportunities available under LIFT and the activities conducted to date. The session was attended by 45 members of Save the Children's staff and collaborators.

### **3.2. PROJECT ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT**

LIFT set up a Basecamp site (an online project management tool) to facilitate communication and collaboration between LIFT partners and consultants while conducting technical assistance activities.

LIFT issued the following contracts in the quarter:

- LIFT/CARE Subaward fully executed
- LIFT/AFE Subaward Modification 1 fully executed, for work in Ethiopia.
- Personal Services Contractor Agreement to Chalachew Tiruneh, for work in Ethiopia.
- Personal Services Contractor Agreement to Raya Abagodu, for work in Ethiopia.
- Personal Services Contractor Agreement to Tassew Woldehanna, for work in Ethiopia.
- Personal Services Contractor Agreement to Joan Hall, for work in Ethiopia.
- Personal Services Contractor Agreement to James Dempsey, for work in Ethiopia.
- Personal Services Contractor Agreement to Ben Fowler, for work in Ethiopia.

### **3.3. LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

- LIFT Program Officer, Jennine Carmichael, and Program Associate, Lam Huynh, attended a presentation on "Empowering Better Care: Report on Economic Strengthening for OVC Caregivers in Uganda," which dealt with the economic strengthening component of a larger OVC-focused project in Uganda. The project is implemented by the Salvation Army World Service Organization (SAWSO), and uses the WORTH model of village savings and loan (VSL) associations for the ES component. The learning from this meeting has potential implications for LIFT recommendations about linking ES activities with activities supporting HIV-affected households.
- LIFT Livelihood and Food Security Specialist, Ben Rinehart, attended a presentation titled "Poverty, Agriculture and Nutrition: Conceptual Linkages and Operational Implications" by Per Pinstrup-Anderson, addressing the linkages among food systems, food security, nutrition and poverty.
- LIFT Senior Specialist, Kirsten Weeks, attended "Implementing Country-Led Agricultural Development: Updates on CAADP and Feed the Future", hosted by the Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa.
- LIFT Program Director, Margie Brand, and LIFT Senior Specialist, Kirsten Weeks, attended workshops and presentations at the PEPFAR Regional Meeting on Nutrition Assessment Counseling and Support in HIV/AIDS in Uganda.

### **3.4. STAFFING**

The AED/LIFT team welcomed Kirsten Weeks, Senior Specialist, and Benjamin Rinehart, Livelihood and Food Security Specialist, as new full-time employees.

Save the Children initiated a candidate search for an employee dedicated to LIFT.

### **3.5. DELIVERABLES**

LIFT Year One Annual Report

LIFT prepared and submitted the following deliverables to USAID during the quarter:

- Quarterly Report #3 (FY2010, Quarter 3)
- Quarterly Accruals Report
- Materials supporting and further developing the PEPFAR Plus-Up Funds Concept Paper submitted in the prior quarter.
- Proposed budget realignment.

## Successes

- LIFT successfully completed the desk review and field work components of the Ethiopia technical assistance activity.
- LIFT made key contributions to meetings in the sector through active engagement in the M&E Consultation Meeting and the USAID Regional Meeting on Nutrition Assessment Counseling and Support in HIV.
- The LIFT Livelihood and Food Security Framework will be considered for adoption/adaptation by the informal USAID working group on household economic security.
- LIFT continues to explore technical assistance activities with a number of USAID Missions and CDC, hence continuing to grow the portfolio of technical assistance provided through LIFT.

## Challenges

- CARE is experiencing transition within the LIFT team as Leah Berkowitz will be transitioning to a new role within CARE and will be unable to be the project lead on LIFT. CARE is currently recruiting for Ms. Berkowitz's replacement and already has several promising candidates.
- The increasing need for rapid responses to activities under LIFT has resulted in challenges in communications among LIFT partners. To address this, in the next quarter, LIFT partners will revisit communication protocols and expectations. Both CARE and Save the Children are working to increase their staff capacity on LIFT in order to position themselves more strongly to meet the demand for LIFT services.
- The Ethiopia assessment posed challenges in terms of Mission communication and relationships, resulting in last minute changes to the team and to assessment plans that complicated field logistics substantially. Nevertheless, LIFT worked closely with the mission to clarify expectations and accommodate reasonable requests, given the constraints of timeframe, budget, and the scope of work.

## Key Learning

- The Ethiopia field assessment team identified several learning points around conducting field-based technical assistance trips. The LIFT team is incorporating this feedback into tools such as checklists and consultant scopes of work, and is researching technologies to support remote collaboration.
- Early LIFT field work has affirmed the need for technical assistance in sustainable, market-oriented economic strengthening activities connected to improved food security and health outcomes for HIV/AIDS-affected populations.

## Plans for the Next Quarter

### 1. Global

- Finalize and launch the Economic Strengthening for Food Security website, incorporating a dedicated section for LIFT project information and the Resource Library, among other features.
- Finalize the LIFT Workplan for Year 2.
- Continue to develop the Livelihood and Food Security Conceptual Framework, incorporating feedback from key stakeholders, and expanding on the linkages between livelihoods and food security and other relevant technical areas.
- Continue to explore opportunities for collaboration with AIDSTAR-II.
- LIFT has been in discussions regarding possible collaboration opportunities with the Food Economy Group (FEG), which has been on the leading edge of livelihoods-based food security information systems, policy analysis and complex-process facilitation services for over a decade, contributing to the efforts of a broad range of decision makers in the humanitarian and development community. The LIFT team sees potential for collaboration with FEG in the planned activities in Swaziland and Nigeria.
- CARE will recruit a new lead for LIFT activities, potentially at a higher level of effort than previously envisaged, in recognition of LIFT's growing needs and CARE's need to be more consistently available and responsive to LIFT priorities.

- LIFT will further expand its pool of high-quality consultants for both global and field-based technical assistance provision.

## 2. Country-specific

- Assist USAID/Ethiopia in conducting a post-assessment strategic planning and implementing partner workshop.
- Conduct the Swaziland technical assistance activity.
- Continue planning for long-term technical assistance provision with USAID/Nigeria. Finalize the SOW for and conduct an initial field-based TA activity as part of an overall TA plan.
- LIFT is discussing conducting an outreach visit to Malawi in conjunction with another field-based technical activity. LIFT will continue to work with USAID staff in Malawi to develop a plan for technical assistance activities.
- Continue outreach and discussions around TA needs with USAID/Kenya.
- Finalize follow-up plans with USAID/Namibia.
- Begin discussing potential TA activities with USAID/Zambia.

## LIFT Meeting Log – FY10 Q4

Date	Topic	Attendees
7/1/2010	LIFT Meeting with USAID interns	Clinton Sears (USAID/OHA), Ashley Blocker (USAID/OHA), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT), Clint Curtis (AED/LIFT)
7/1/2010	LIFT Meeting with USAID	Sarah Sandison (USAID/GH), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
7/7/2010	LIFT/FANTA-2 Meeting	Tony Castleman (AED/FANTA-2), Gilles Bergeron (AED/FANTA-2), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT), Clint Curtis (AED/LIFT), Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
7/8/2010	Ethiopia Assessment Call	Jackie Flewelling (AFE), Joan Hall (LIFT Cons.), Lisa Parrott (Save), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT), Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
7/8/2010	Ethiopia Assessment Call	Ben Fowler (LIFT Cons.), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT), Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
7/9/2010	Ethiopia Assessment Call	Jim Dempsey (LIFT Cons.), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
7/13/2010	AIDSTAR-2 After Action Review Call	Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
7/21/2010	Ethiopia Desk Research Call	Joan Hall (LIFT Cons.), Scott Arche (AFE Cons.), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT)
7/28/2010 – 7/29/2010	PAHO M&E Consultation	Tim Quick (USAID/OHA), Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), Gary Woller (LIFT Cons.), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), and other participants
8/5/2010	Technical One-Pagers Meeting	Tula Michaelides (AED/GHPN), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT)
8/5/2010	USG HES Working Group with LIFT Framework Meeting	Tim Quick (USAID/OHA), Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
8/10/2010	USAID/Ethiopia Meeting	Tsegaye Tilahun (USAID/Ethiopia), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT), Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
8/11/2010	Ethiopia Field Assessment Call	Ben Fowler (LIFT Cons.), Jim Dempsey (LIFT Cons.), Joan Hall (LIFT Cons.), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
8/16/2010	Ethiopia Field Assessment Call	Raya Abagodu (LIFT Cons.), Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
8/18/2010	Contracts Meeting	Ross Douthard (AED/Contracts), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
8/26/2010	Ethiopia Field Assessment Call	Ben Fowler (LIFT Cons.), Jim Dempsey (LIFT Cons.), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
8/27/2010	Ethiopia Field Assessment Call	Ben Fowler (LIFT Cons.), Jim Dempsey (LIFT Cons.), Lisa Parrott (Save), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)

Date	Topic	Attendees
8/30/2010	Ethiopia Assessment Call	Jason Wolfe (USAID/EGAT), Ben Fowler (LIFT Cons.), Jim Dempsey (LIFT Cons.), Lisa Parrott (Save), Scott Arche (AFE Cons.), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
8/31/2010	Swaziland Assessment Meeting	Natalie Kruse-Levy (USAID/Swaziland), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
9/3/2010	CARE and LIFT Meeting	Leah Berkowitz Nchaleberg (CARE), Nadia Babar (CARE), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT)
9/3/2010	Ethiopia Field Assessment Call	Ben Fowler (LIFT Cons.), Jim Dempsey (LIFT Cons.), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
9/8/2010	Ethiopia Field Assessment Call	Ben Fowler (LIFT Cons.), Jim Dempsey (LIFT Cons.), LIFT Team
9/14/10-9/17/10	Regional Meeting on Nutrition and HIV: Strategies, Tools and Progress in Integrating Nutrition into HIV Programming, Uganda	Tim Quick (USAID/OHA), Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT) Brand, Kirsten Weeks (AED/LIFT), and other participants
9/14/2010	Ethiopia Field Assessment Call	Ben Fowler (LIFT Cons.), Jim Dempsey (LIFT Cons.), Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
9/20/2010	Evaluation of Economic Strengthening for OVC: Using the WORTH Model in Uganda Presentation	Jason Wolfe (USAID/EGAT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT), Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
9/21/10-9/22/10	Strategic Enterprise Workshop	Benjamin Rinehart (AED/LIFT)
9/22/2010	Implementing Country-Led Agricultural Development: Updates on CAADP and Feed the Future Initiative	Kirsten Weeks (AED/LIFT)
9/23/2010	Smallholder Incomes & Food Security: Case Studies from Kenya & Honduras	Kirsten Weeks (AED/LIFT)
9/28/2010	M&E MERG Indicators Meeting	Tim Quick (USAID/OHA), Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), Gary Woller (LIFT Cons.), Tony Castleman (AED/FANTA-2), Serigne Diene (AED/FANTA-2), LIFT Team
9/29/2010	Nigeria Assessment Meeting	Philomena Irene (USAID/Nigeria), Lungi Okoko (USAID/Nigeria), Sarah Sandison (USAID/GH), Tim Quick (USAID/OHA), Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), LIFT Team
9/29/2010	LIFT Meeting	Tim Quick (USAID/OHA), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
9/29/2010	Nigeria Assessment Meeting	Parsa Sanjana (AED/COACH), Sarah Torrance (AED/COACH), Benjamin Rinehart (AED/LIFT), Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
	<i>Cons.: Consultant</i>	